

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ferritic stainless steel having good machinability, comprising:

a chemical composition comprising 0.001-0.1 mass % of C, Si up to 1.0 mass %, Mn up to 1.0 mass %, 15-30 mass % of Cr, Ni up to 0.60 mass %, 0.5-6.0 mass % of Cu, ~~optionally one or more of Sn and In not less than 0.005 mass % in total, and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities; and~~

a structure having Cu-enriched particles with a ~~concentration of C not less than 0.1 mass % or~~ concentration of Sn and/or In not less than 10 mass %, said particles being dispersed at 0.2 vol. % or more in a ferritic matrix.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A martensitic stainless steel having good machinability, comprising:

a chemical composition comprising 0.01-0.5 mass % of C, Si up to 1.0 mass %, Mn up to 1.0 mass %, 10-15 mass % of Cr, Ni up to 0.60 mass %, 0.5-6.0 mass % of Cu, ~~optionally one or more of Sn and In not less than 0.005 mass % in total, and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities; and~~

a structure having Cu-enriched particles with a ~~concentration of C not less than 0.1 mass % or~~ concentration of Sn and/or In not less than 10 mass %, said particles being dispersed at 0.2 vol. % or more in a martensitic matrix.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The ferritic stainless steel defined by claim 1, wherein the composition further contains at least one or more of 0.2-1.0 mass % of Nb, 0.02-1 mass % of Ti, 0-3 mass % of Mo, 0-1 mass % of Zr, 0-1 mass % of Al, 0-1 mass % of V, 0-0.005 mass % of B and 0-0.05 mass % of rare earth metals (REM).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a ferritic or martensitic stainless steel sheet having good machinability, comprising the steps of:

providing a stainless steel comprising 0.001-0.5 mass % of C, Si up to 1.0 mass %, Mn up to 1.0 mass %, 10-30 mass % of Cr, Ni up to 0.60 mass %, 0.5-6.0 mass % of Cu, ~~optionally~~ one or more of Sn and In not less than 0.005 mass % in total, and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities; and

aging said ferritic or martensite stainless steel at a temperature within a range of 500-900°C for one hour or longer, at least one time after a hot-rolling step until a forming step to a final product,

whereby Cu-enriched particles with ~~concentration of C not less than 0.1 mass % or a~~ concentration of Sn and/or In not less than 10 mass % were dispersed in a ferritic or martensitic matrix by said aging.

Claim 5 (Original): The martensitic stainless steel defined by claim 2, wherein the composition further contains at least one or more of 0.2-1.0 mass % of Nb, 0.02-1 mass % of Ti, 0-3 mass % of Mo, 0-1 mass % of Zr, 0-1 mass % of Al, 0-1 mass % of V, 0-0.005 mass % of B and 0-0.05 mass % of rare earth metals (REM).